

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute the enclosed sheets 1/4 to 3/4, inclusive, each labeled “Replacement Sheet”, for the corresponding sheets presently in the case. Furthermore, please add new sheet 4/4, labeled “New Sheet”, containing new drawing figures 5 and 6. The applicants appreciate the Examiner’s assistance in identifying certain errors and omissions in the original drawing figures.

In response to objection to the drawings:

Figure 1 is amended to correct the ordinate and abscissa axis legends from “Temperatur” (German) to “Temperature” (English), and from “Zeit” (German) to “Time” (English), respectively.

Figure 3 is amended to correct the ordinate and abscissa axis legends from “Temperatursensor – Werte” (German) to “Temperature Sensor – Rate” (English), and from “Zeit” (German) to “Time” (English), respectively.

Figure 4 is amended to correct the ordinate and abscissa axis legends from “Temperatur” (German) to “Temperature” (English), and from “Zeit” (German) to “Time” (English), respectively.

New Figures 5 and 6 illustrate the occupant recognition system structures set forth in claim 1 (i.e. pressure sensor, temperature sensor, electronic control and/or evaluation unit, etc.) as well as the various dependent claims (i.e., flexible sensor mat, airbag, etc.).

USSN 10/829,533 filed 04/22/2004 (DP-309956)
Amendment dated: 22-MAR-2006
Response to Office Action of 10/05/2005

No new matter has been entered. Every element or structure depicted in Figures 5 and 6 find clear antecedent basis in the originally filed specification, drawings and claims. To assist the Examiner in satisfying himself as to the validity of the forgoing representation, a supporting element-by-element schedule is set forth in the remarks section of this paper.

Applicants believe that the amendments to the drawings, together with the aforementioned amendments to the specification, address all objections raised in the Office Action. Therefore, it is requested that the objections be withdrawn in view of the amendments to the Figures and specification, and the remarks herein.

REMARKS

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

New Figures 5 and 6 correct this oversight by illustrating the elements and structures specified in the claims without entering new matter. These elements are enumerated herein below with a cross-reference to the location of that specific element or structure in the original application document.

Figure 5 and 6 elements and structures:

Occupant recognition system (12)	Title, page 2, line 9
Vehicle (14)	Title, page 1, line 6
Pressure Sensor (24)	Page 1, line 6
(Seat) foam (18)	Page 1, line 6
Vehicle Seat (16)	Page 1, line 7
Temperature Sensor (30)	Page 1, line 7
Electronic Control and/or Evaluation Unit (26)	Page 1, line 7
Foam Temperature (Tfoam)	Page 4, line 28, Fig. 1
ECU Temperature (Tecu)	Page 4, line 26, Figs 1, 4
Output Signal (T10)	Page 8, lines 10-11, Figs 2, 4
Time Behavior Matching Means/Low Pass or Butterworth Filter (10)	Fig. 2
Flexible Sensor Mat (34)	Page 3, line 11
Fluid within Sensor Mat (36)	Page 3, line 11
Pressure Sensor senses pressure in Mat	Page 3, line 9, Claim 10
Pressure Sensor directly beneath Seat Foam	Page 3, line 16, Claim 11
Temperature Sensor includes Thermistor	Page 3, line 18, Claim 12
Temperature Sensor near ECU/Evaluation Unit	Page 3, line 19, Claim 13
ECU/Evaluation Unit in Housing (38)	Page 3, line 21, Claim 14
Temperature Sensor in Housing	Page 3, line 21, Claim 14
ECU/Evaluation Unit beneath Vehicle Seat	Page 3, line 24, Claim 15
Airbag Switch (32)	Page 1, line 33, Page 3, line 30
Airbag (33)	Page 1, line 33, Page 3, line 30
Low Pass Filter (10) is Software Filter	Page 4, line 1, Claim 5

Furthermore, posts (22) and seat frame (20) are called out to position the vehicle seat (16)/ seat foam (18) above the ECU/evaluation unit and the vehicle floor (28). Refer Page 3, line 24 and claim 15. The posts (22), seat frame (20) and vehicle floor (28) are implicit in the overall teaching of the original specification. Furthermore they are well known and ubiquitous in the art as, for example, described in US 6,490,936.

The addition of new figures 5 and 6 clearly overcome the objections to the drawings without entering new matter. Accordingly, the Applicants request that the objection be withdrawn.

The disclosure (specification) is objected to based upon certain informalities. Specifically, on page 6, line 16, it is not clear what the square symbols represent.

The square symbols inadvertently resulted from administrative transcription errors. As set forth herein above, the square symbols are replaced by the lower case Greek letter “tau” or “ τ ”.

The Applicants request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 4 – 16 are objected to under 27 CFR 1.74(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from another multiple dependent claim.

The claims have been amended to eliminate all multiple dependencies.

The Applicants request that the objection be withdrawn.

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Claims 1 – 3 are objected to under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

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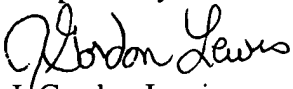
Conclusion

Applicants believe, in view of the amendments and remarks herein, that all grounds of rejection of the claims have been addressed and overcome, and that all claims are in condition for allowance.

If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication and/or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,



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